

PRESS _____ RELEASE



**3780 Industrial Ave South
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DATE: May 21, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Two 2003 National Fire Plan Grants Awarded to Kootenai County

(Boise...May 21) - Two National Fire Plan USDA Forest Service State Fire Assistance grants, one for \$1,150,222 to continue "FireSmart" and \$101,263 for fire education, have been awarded to the Kootenai County Local Emergency Planning Committee, according to Winston Wiggins, Director, Idaho Department of Lands.

These grants are part of the ten-year strategy for implementing the National Fire Plan in Idaho. The money will be used to decrease the threat and impact of wildfires to landowners and firefighters by removing trees, down/dead vegetation and ladder fuels from the county. Homeowners will be educated on creating defensible space around their homes and assisted in those activities.

Statewide there are currently 15 other Idaho Department of Lands National Fire Plan USDA Forest Service Grant projects. The purpose of these projects is to reduce hazardous forest fuels accumulations and develop defensible space for improved fire protection in high risk areas of the state. Projects will also expand outreach and education to homeowners and communities about fire prevention and management in our forested areas.

Additional information about this program can be obtained at local Idaho Department of Lands Area Offices. Information can also be obtained from the HFT project manager by email at: mtennery@idl.state.id.us; phone 208-666-8603.

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